Setting up Textile Processing Units in Assam

*113 SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up textile processing units in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise/location-wise;

(c) the cost of these projects; and

(d) by when these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) Textile processing units are largely set up in the private sector in the country, including in Assam. There is no proposal to set up any new central public sector processing unit.

State of preparedness of Indian Air Force

*114. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Times of India dated February 8th 1999, under the caption, "IAF planes skipped war preparedness tests"; and

(b) if so, what is Govenment's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Directorate of Air Staff Inspection (DASI) under Air Headquarters conducts flying checks with the intention of ascertaining efficacy of the flying training environment. In fact Air Headquarters have reported that the Indian Air Force achieved the highest amount of flying during the period 1996-97 as compared to 1995-96 with an increase of 6.13% in flying hours.

In fact to reconfirm the operational preparedness, specific tasks were given to DASI during 1998 to assess the operational preparedness of the combat units. It was brought out clearly by the team that our front line combat units are capable of undertaking all the assigned roles.

Consumption of Power in Industrial and Agricultural Sectors

*115. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumption of power in the Industrial Sector is more than that in the agricultural sector;

(b) if not, the average consumption of power in both the sectors, separately;

(c) whether the recovery rate for power consumption is more than the average cost of production in industrial sector as compared to agricultural sector;

(d) if so, the details of the average cost of production and recovery rate of consumption of power in agricultural and industrial sectors, separately; and

(e) the likely rate of power for domestic and commercial use, separately?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The consumption of power in the industrial sector during 1996-97 was 104072 GWH against the agricultural sector consumption of 84019 GWH.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, during the year 1996-97 the recovery rate for the power consumption in industrial sector taking all SEBs together was more than the cost of supply (production) whereas for agricultural sector the recovery rate for the same period for all SEBs was less than cost of supply (production). The

details for all SEBs are as follows:—

Year	Industrial Sector Average Cost (P/Unit) of		Agricultural Sector Average Cost (P/Unit) of	
	Supply	Realisation	Supply	Realisation
1996-97	204.37	290.67	204.37	21.76

(c) The rates of power for domestic use as well as for commercial use varies from State to State depending on the type of loads under each category.

High alert at Siachen

*116. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army is on high alert along the line of actual control at Siachen Glacier;

(b) if so, the further steps proposed to ensure that Pakistan does not gain strategic advantage at the region; and

(c) whether there is any change of making the area tranquil and quiet, as in Ladakh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Saltoro Range Area is virtually a war zone where small arms, artillery and mortar fire is exchanged between the two sides regularly. Our troops are highly trained, motivated and deployed in a manner to dominate Pak defences. Adequate measures have been undertaken to ensure that Pakistan does not gain any foothold on the Saltoro Range.

Necesary measures have been taken through diplomatic channel to resolve the issue. Several rounds of talks including the latest one held in November 1998 were all aimed at achieving peace and tranquility in the area.

पश्चिमी बंगाल में आई॰एस॰आई॰ की गतिविधियां

*117. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 9 दिसम्बर, 1998 के "राष्ट्रीय सहारा" के पृष्ठ 10 पर "पश्चिम बंगाल में आई॰एस॰आई॰ सक्रिय" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि सेना के स्थानीय उच्चाधिकारी इस संबंध में राज्य सरकार को पर्याप्त सूचना उपलब्ध कराते रहे हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि आई॰एस॰आई॰ की सक्रियता सीमावर्ती अन्य राज्यों में भी निरन्तर बढ़ रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस समस्या को खत्म करने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं और उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) और (ख) जी हां, श्रीमान्।

(ग) सरकार को सीमावर्ती राज्यों सहित देश के विभिन्न भागों में पाक आई॰एस॰आई॰ की गतिविधियों की जानकारी है। सरकार स्थिति पर निकट से और लगातार नजर रख रही है तथा इस प्रकार के इरादों को सफल न होने देने के लिए सभी आवश्यक प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं जिनमें आतंकवादियों और विद्रोही तत्वों के विरुद्ध अभियानों को जारी रखना भी शामिल है।

(घ) सरकार ने विभिन्न कदम उठाए हैं जिनमें सम्मिलित है, आसूचना तंत्र को सुग्राही और सक्रिय बनाना, संबंधित केन्द्रीय/राज्य एजेंसियों द्वारा आपस में आसूचना का आदान-प्रदान और समन्वित कार्यवाहियां, सीमा पर बाड़ लगाना, सीमा पर गश्त को तेज करना, दिन और रात्रि के दौरान प्रभावकारी निगरानी हेतु उपकरणों की आपूर्ति, पाक आई॰एस॰आई॰ एजेंटों, समाज विरोधी तत्वों और विद्रोहियों की गतिविधियों के संबंध में राज्य सरकारों को सुग्राही बनाना और सतर्क करने सहित नाकाबंदी (जांच चौकियां) बढ़ाना।

ये कदम बहुत प्रभावकारी सिद्ध हुए और इनके फलस्वरूप देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में आई॰एस॰आई॰ गतिविधियों के विभिन्न मोड्यूल्स निष्क्रिय किए जा